



How to Maintain F-1 Status

To maintain F-1 status, a student must:

1. Maintain a valid passport, I-20 and I-94
2. Attend the school you are authorized to attend.
3. Pursue a full course of study and make normal progress towards the completion of the course of study.
4. Apply for extensions of program before the expiration date on the current I-20.
5. Follow INS procedures for changing from one program or educational level to another (e.g., from B.A. degree to M.A. degree).
6. Limit on-campus employment to 20 hours a week while school is in session.
7. Refrain from off-campus employment without authorization.
8. Report a change of address to INS within 10 days of the change on Form AR-11.

Full course of study is defined as follows:

- * Undergraduate programs: 12 credit hours per semester for the fall and winter semester.
- * Graduate programs: 9 credit hours per semester for the fall and winter semester.
- * Only 3 credits of on-line courses can be counted toward a full course of study.
- * Final single course in the final semester cannot be done as distance education.

Announcements

- Class registration is available in the Registrar's office from December 15th, 2008 until January 13th, 2009.
- Web registration for Spring/Summer semester classes begins February 23rd.
- Spring Break begins March 2nd and classes resume March 9th. If you are planning to leave the country during the break, please remember to bring your travel documents to Ms. Grace Philson for signature before departure.
- If you are interested in writing articles, wish to interview, or have an idea for the International Newsletter, please contact Grace Philson or Joy Cho in the International Student Office (internationalstudent@madonna.edu).

Question of the Month

Q: How do I prepare for graduation?

Answer:

First the student needs to fill out a graduation application. Applications are available at the Registrar's Office. Next, the student will need the signature of advisor. Last, the student needs to pay a \$75 graduation fee to the Student Accounts Office.

Application Deadlines:

If you are graduating in **December**, you need to apply before the **Last Friday in May**.
If you are graduating in **May**, you need to apply before the **Last Friday in September**.
If you are graduating in **July**, you need to apply before the **Last Friday in January**.

ISO Events

January and February



International Auto Show

Date : Jan. 23
Place : Cobo Center
Come join the biggest auto show in the North America

Movie Matinee

Date : Jan. 24, Feb. 28
Place : Highland Park
Come join an early movie & snack



Plymouth Ice Spectacular

Date : Jan. 24
Place : Plymouth Downtown
Enjoy the ice festival

Coffee Time

Date : Feb. 12
Place : Colonnade Lounge
It's that time again.
Every month the international students have a day of food and fun and this month's theme is Africa and South America! Make sure to come and be a part of this unique experience.



January, 2009

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Jamie Mudge is an exchange student sponsored by British Council, Northern Ireland.

Here for only one school year, Jamie has adjusted quickly to life in America. Jamie is pursuing a degree in Business Management and admits that he likes America's classroom format and grading better.

In Ireland he was given only one exam and an essay to determine his grade, and to receive a score over 70% a student needs to include information the instructor has not taught. He states that completing his studies here "a bit at a time" has made him a very successful student. He goes on to explain that it is still quite a lot of work and that so far his favorite course is marketing. Every day Jamie completes his coursework before taking to the field for two hours for a rigorous soccer practice.

Though Jamie is well traveled, having visited all of the United Kingdom, Canada, Singapore, Australia, and Spain, there are still things that take time for him to get used to. Just the size of America can be intimidating. Jamie was astonished after driving three hours for away games to still be in Michigan.

"In Ireland if you drive three hours you'll either be in southern Ireland or in the sea somewhere," he confided. One of the many international students without a car, his one wish is that he could travel around the United States more to explore. His Madonna teammates have made the change easier by offering to drive him places. Overall the students and staff of Madonna University have made sure that Jamie's short time here would leave him with wonderful memories.

International Students Office [ISO]

- Location : Academic Building Room 1207
- Website : <http://www.madonna.edu/pages/IntlStudents.cfm>
- Hours : Monday ~ Friday [9:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.]
- Phone : 734 - 432 - 5300 (ext.4763)
- E-mail : internationalstudent@madonna.edu

- Director : Grace Philson 734 - 432 - 5791
gphilson@madonna.edu
- Advisor : Joy Cho 734 - 432 - 5763
scho@madonna.edu

American Holidays

The United States has different sorts of holidays. There are national holidays, state holidays, religious holidays, and customary holidays. Here is information about two national holidays and one customary holiday.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

On national holidays, all Federal government offices - for instance the Post Office - are closed for business. Other offices and businesses may decide to be open or closed. Often, banks close, for instance.



Dr. Martin Luther King's Birthday

-Monday, January 19th
This holiday celebrates the birth of civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated in 1968. In 1983 the United States Congress declared the third Monday in January a national holiday in recognition of his contributions. Martin Luther King's actual birthday falls on January 15th.

Presidents' Day

-Monday, February 16
Today, Presidents' Day is one day on the calendar: the third Monday in February. For many, many years, there were two national holidays in February. February 12 (whatever day of the week it fell on) was observed as Lincoln's Birthday. February 22 (whatever day of the week it fell on) was observed as Washington's Birthday. These were the two most revered American presidents in their day. In the 1970's, Congress decided to make one day, President's Day, instead of these two days. Perhaps they did not want to close government offices and pay employees for two days off in February.



CUSTOMARY HOLIDAY

On customary holidays, nobody closes for business, but people find various ways to observe these days, even if only with greeting cards.

Valentine's Day

- Saturday, February 14th
There are many stories about the history of Valentine's Day (also called St. Valentine's Day). Currently it is observed as a day to celebrate the love between friends, significant others, and married couples. This is usually displayed by giving greeting cards, candy, flowers, and other romantic gifts. The persons giving and receiving these gifts call each other "my valentine." The greeting cards are also called "valentines." A heart is usually the symbol associated with this holiday.

